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NOVEMBER 4.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

A paper entitled "On the Behavior of Petrolatum in the Digestive Tract," by N. A. Randolph, M. D., was presented for publication.

Impression of the Figures on a "Meday Stick."—Dr. D. G. BRINTON exhibited a full-sized impression of the figures on a "Meday Stick," obtained from the Pottawattomies, by the eminent antiquary, Dr. E. H. Davis.

These sticks are used as mnemonic aids in repeating the chants in the "Great Medicine Lodge," the principal religious rite of the Algonkins. The present stick is 19 inches long, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, and of hard wood. The figures engraved upon it are over 500 in number, chiefly representing plants. These figures are engraved with a knife, but the native name of such sticks points to a more primitive method. It is *massinahican*, literally "a piece of wood marked with fire." The characters inscribed are called *kekiwin*, which means *marks* or *signs*, and from which root are derived the words "to know," "to learn," and "to teach," in many Algonkin dialects.

The characters are of two kinds, notches, and drawings of objects. The notches are believed to indicate the musical time or rhythm of the chant, while the drawings suggest its words. The text of several such songs has been printed. They are usually to obtain success in the chase or restoration to health. The latter appears to be the nature of the present song, judging from the numerous plants depicted.

This Meday stick illustrates an instructive fact constantly lost sight of by antiquaries. The so-called picture-writing of the Algonkin Indians never presented pictures. There is no grouping, shading or pictorial arrangement of the figures. There is no attempt at esthetic effect. The single figures are not connected so as to evoke any artistic sentiment. The intention was wholly apart from this, and where such appears, it is not true Algonkin art.

NOVEMBER 11.

Mr. JOHN H. REDFIELD in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—